

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 31, ~~in which the actuator comprises a voice coil, a magnet assembly and a substantially rigid planar member, the coupler being configured to retain the magnet assembly with respect to the voice coil, the coupler defining a first surface configured to be removably coupled to the acoustic radiator, and the substantially rigid planar member being attached to the voice coil and being disposed between the voice coil and the first surface.~~
2. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 38, in which the gel comprises a hydrogel.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler has a Shore A hardness between substantially 5 and substantially 15.
6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler has a Shore A hardness of substantially 10.
7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the coupler is operative to retain the voice coil and the magnet assembly in a spatially separated relationship.
8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the coupler consists of a single moulded element.

9. (Cancelled).
10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the magnet assembly comprises an axially extending central portion defining a first pole of a permanent magnet and a radially extending portion coupling the central portion to an axially extending magnetic shroud, the shroud defining a second pole of the permanent magnet and the central portion and the shroud defining a flux space therebetween.
11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, in which the voice coil extends into the flux space.
12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, in which the flux space is substantially annular.
13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the coupler comprises a disc defining the first surface.
14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 13, in which the coupler comprises a wall upstanding from an opposing surface of the disc.
15. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which a volume defined by the coupler accommodates the magnet assembly and the voice coil.
16. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the planar member is mounted adjacent said opposing surface of the disc.
17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the wall has an inner diameter and an outer diameter, and the disc has a diameter greater than said outer diameter such that the disc defines a flange around the wall.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the opposing surface of the disc is provided with at least one continuous ridges extending around the wall.
19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 18, in which the at least one continuous ridge is concentric with the wall.
20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the wall is provided with a radially extending flange for engaging the magnet assembly.
21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which an outer diameter of the wall decreases in a direction away from the disc.

Claims 22- 30 (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) Driver apparatus for driving a distributed mode loudspeaker, the driver apparatus comprising:

an actuator operable to move in dependence on an acoustic signal, the actuator comprising a voice coil, a magnet assembly and a substantially rigid planar member coupled to the voice coil and arranged for axial movement with respect to the magnet assembly; and

a coupler formed of a unitary resilient material which covers the planar member and is connected to move with the planar member, the coupler being configured to, in use, couple movement of the actuator to an acoustic radiator to cause the acoustic radiator to operate in a distributed mode fashion, in which the coupler has a Shore A hardness of no more than 20.

32. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler engages with the actuator.

33. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler is configured to engage with the acoustic radiator.

34. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler defines a substantially planar surface configured to engage with a surface of the acoustic radiator.

35. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the actuator is operative in dependence upon an electrical signal.

36. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the actuator comprises a moving coil actuator.

37. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the resilient material comprises a polymer.

38. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the resilient material comprises a gel.

39. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler defines a substantially planar surface that is configured to removably engage with a surface of the acoustic radiator.